

## **Beneath the Veil**

I walk unseen among the chattering crowd,  
My hijab, both my sanctuary and cage.  
While others' beauty is pronounced and loud,  
I feel erased, a footnote on life's page.  
Their gleaming hair and skin catch every eye,  
While I blend into shadows, fade from view.  
The standards set make me suppress a sigh—  
Am I less worthy for the path I choose?  
Yet in my hijab I've found a deeper grace,  
A beauty that transcends the shallow gaze.  
My worth not measured by my hidden face,  
But by the strength I carry through my days.  
For beauty lives in more than what they see,  
And in this truth, I've learned to love in me.